

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

SECOND LATIN AMERICAN MEETING ON POPULATION

Mexico, D.F., 3 to 7 March 1975

Information document No 2IMPLICATIONS FOR UNICEF OF THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN
OF ACTION RELATED TO ITS WORK IN LATIN AMERICA

The World Population Plan of Action adopted at the World Population Conference is, in the first place, a policy instrument for national and international progress in social economic development. The explicit aim of the World Population Plan of Action is to help co-ordinate population trends, and the trends of economic and social development. The Plan of Action recognizes the responsibility of each government to decide on its own policies and devise its own programmes of action, for dealing with the problems of population and economic and social progress. At the same time it gives clear guidelines on the supportive role of international agencies on the basis of respect for the sovereignty of a recipient country and its national policy. UNICEF guided by the Plan has carefully examined the resolutions and recommendations proposed by the committees and adopted by the conference. As an agency with its particular interest for the welfare of children and their families, it was happy to note that many recommendations for action contained in Part C of the World Population Plan of Action are very relevant to UNICEF's mandate. UNICEF is particularly concerned about the current population trend in most developing countries because it is the children who suffer most. If there are more children born into a family than are wanted or can receive adequate parental care, or if there are too many children born into a society for the government authorities of that society to provide the minimum necessary health, nutrition and education services, then of course the children are the ones who suffer the most because they are more vulnerable than adults. UNICEF therefore considers the population problem not from the point of view of technical analysis or projections regarding demography and national economic strategies, though needed for establishing national policies in the population field, but, from the point of view of individual human beings - the family and the child.

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ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1964

The following is a summary of the administrative record of the Bureau of Land Management for the year 1964. The record is divided into four main sections: (1) General Administration, (2) Land Management, (3) Conservation, and (4) Public Lands. The first section, General Administration, covers the Bureau's overall operations, including its budget, personnel, and general management. The second section, Land Management, covers the Bureau's activities in the management of public lands, including land acquisition, disposal, and management. The third section, Conservation, covers the Bureau's activities in the conservation of public lands, including the establishment of national monuments and the management of national forests. The fourth section, Public Lands, covers the Bureau's activities in the management of public lands, including the management of national forests, national parks, and national monuments. The record is a comprehensive summary of the Bureau's activities and is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the Bureau's work.

Based on his views, the Executive Director of UNICEF suggested to the Conference in Bucharest, that countries concerned should enhance several areas of activities which directly or indirectly may influence parents and future parents to decide consciously or unconsciously, as to the number and spacing of children.

Economic conditions in several developing countries gave reason for the UNICEF Executive Board to issue a Declaration of Emergency on behalf of children in the developing world. The Board had in mind, in particular, the children of those countries most seriously affected by the present world economic crisis. In addition to that, in many developing countries child population forms the majority; special attention is needed for meeting their needs. According to existing statistics 45 per cent of the population in Latin America is below the age of 15 years, and further statistical studies are being conducted such as the Project on Development and Utilization of Statistics for Children and Youth, sponsored by UNICEF and the UN Statistical Office.

UNICEF assistance therefore, may be needed to help in an emergency situation with food, but in general many developing countries are in need of assistance in health, nutrition education, pre-natal and delivery services, immunization and other social services. Expanding basic health services in order to bring health care and food to women and children is also one of the ways to make possible the expansion of family planning in countries which favour that policy. Therefore, our approach towards the population problem is a broad integrated approach with special attention to those areas which are beneficial for the welfare of mothers and children, while at the same time supportive of population policies in general. UNICEF's views conform also to related conclusions reached at the Latin American Preparatory Meeting for the World Population Conference, for instance, the need to promote integrated education, health, employment and other social policies to establish an essential component of population policy. The need to eliminate the barriers which hinder the full co-operation of women in social, economic and political life is considered to be a topic of the greatest interest.

As regards the improvement of family wellbeing it is noted that the family constitutes the social nucleus on which the changes generated by development converge, while in its turn it affects the future behaviour of individuals for their entire life. Any population policy should bear in mind not only the effect produced on the family nucleus by variations in mortality and in the birth rate, but also the problems which affect its formation and modify its stability.

Of particular relevance are the suggestions incorporated in Resolution XIV on Rural Population, recommending that all nations give a higher priority to, and that the specialized agencies pay special attention to the following as a matter of urgency:

- (1) The provision of adequate, potable water supplies;
- (2) Local food production for appropriate nutrition;
- (3) The establishment and improvement of essential health services which include preventive medicine, health and nutrition education, antenatal and delivery service, immunization and family planning with special attention to rural areas;
- (4) Education and training of local personnel and research in the above areas; and
- (5) The introduction of labour-intensive activities and social welfare programmes that promote self-help in matters of housing and food production, especially community development.

Our special attention to the rural areas does not exclude possibilities to assist programmes for urban areas, particularly in shanty towns. With the evergrowing migration from rural to urban areas the need for services for children and women will be growing. UNICEF for instance is involved in cities like Colombia (the Cartagena Programme). In Ecuador we will be involved in the rehabilitation of marginal areas in Guayaquil.

The Plan of Action itself has also urged UNICEF to enhance its efforts through state agencies or semi-autonomous agencies operating in the Americas. An objective and rational assessment of the ongoing programmes of assistance has shown that several of these programmes

need to be strengthened and to be improved. Adjustments have to be made in UNICEF's assistance to relate it more closely to the latest social development strategies of the countries. For instance, many countries are now considering comprehensive regional development programme strategies, rather than the development of certain sectoral services due to national planning and efficient criteria for resource allocation. Fourteen programmes covering Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America are in progress.

UNICEF is now in the process of developing new guidelines for its Field Offices, for a new look on certain existing programmes or for innovative measures to be developed:

- (a) In the health field - a joint WHO-UNICEF study was conducted of alternative approaches to meeting basic health needs of populations in developing countries; through the training of more auxiliary and para-medical personnel a broader coverage of health services in the rural areas will hopefully be achieved.
- (b) The Young Child Study had recommended new approaches to policy and action in developing countries for comprehensive services for the young child, which will open many relevant opportunities or points of entry for introducing basic principles of family planning, child spacing and responsible parenthood within the framework of family health and family welfare, according to the needs. In Latin America the "Young Child Study" was conducted in Honduras, Colombia and Peru.
- (c) Women's education and training programmes in which UNICEF is involved for the past 20 years are also in need of strengthening and improvement. UNICEF has issued guidelines for its Field Offices to make such efforts in co-operation with national authorities concerned or in cases where programmes for women are non-existing to try to develop such programmes.

The importance of this issue was raised in our regional meeting last year in Asunción, where several papers on the subject were discussed, and efforts will be made starting in 1975 to identify specific programmes in the region benefiting women.

In conclusion, the World Population Plan of Action, which has fully endorsed UNICEF's approaches towards solving population problems will be a strong basis for meeting Government requests in relevant fields and within its mandate.

The importance of this issue was raised in our regional meeting last year in Accra, when several women and children were discussed, and efforts will be made to identify specific programmes in the region concerning women.

In conclusion, the World Population Year of Action, which has fully engaged UNCTAD's attention towards solving population problems will be a strong basis for meeting Government requests in respect of the world and within its mandate.